



In re US Patent No. 6,837,367, dated 01/04/2005:

Richard M. Klein et al.

Docket No.: 2220.0

Serial Number: 10/605,902

Filed: 11/05/2003

FOR: MODULAR PLASTIC CONVEYOR BELT WITH HIGH BEAM STRENGTH

Request for Certificate of Correction of Office Mistake under 37 CFR 1.322

Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate
JAN 27 2005
of Correction

Sir:

On behalf of Laitram, L.L.C., owner of this patent by virtue of the assignment recorded at Reel/Frame 014104/0339, the undersigned attorney of record requests that the patent be corrected according to the attached Form PTO/SB/44. The corrections correct errors made by the Office apparently in preparing the application for printing as a patent. The corrections are to claims 2, 15, and 21-23. The claims should have read as submitted by applicants in its amendment submitted on September 20, 2004. An excerpt of that amendment is attached with the affected area of the claim highlighted.

Issuance of a Certificate of Correction of the errors is justified to clarify the meaning of the patent. The patent owner requests that the attached Certificate of Correction be accepted. Because the error was an Office Error, no fee should be due for correction.

Respectfully submitted,
Laitram, L.L.C.

Date: Jan. 13, 2005

By: James T. Cronvich
James T. Cronvich
Reg. No. 33163
Laitram, L.L.C.
220 Laitram Lane
Harahan, LA 70123
Telephone: (504) 733-6739, ext. 1243
Fax: (504) 734-5233

Amendments to the claims

1. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt comprising:

a series of rows of belt modules, each row extending laterally in width from a first side edge to a second side edge, longitudinally in the direction of belt travel from a leading end to a trailing end, and in depth from a top side to a bottom side, wherein each row includes:

at least one belt module forming the row;

a central beam formed in each belt module and arranged laterally across the width of the row, the central beam including a leading wall and an opposite trailing wall defining a beam thickness between the walls;

a plurality of laterally spaced leading hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the leading wall and forming laterally aligned holes through the leading hinge members;

a plurality of laterally spaced trailing hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the trailing wall and forming laterally aligned holes through the trailing hinge members;

wherein the thickness of the central beam is greater at the middle of the row than at the first and second side edges;

a plurality of hinge pins extending through lateral passageways formed by the aligned holes through interleaved leading and trailing hinge members of consecutive rows to interconnect the rows into an endless conveyor belt.

2. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 1 wherein the central beam includes:

a first sinuous portion extending inward along the row from the first side edge of the row;

- a second sinuous portion extending inward along the row from the second side edge of the row; and
- a linear portion disposed between the first sinuous portion and the middle of the row and characterized by generally straight leading and trailing walls.
3. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 2 wherein the linear portion includes:
- a constant thickness portion in a middle region of the belt;
- a first tapered portion disposed between the constant thickness portion and the first sinuous portion and characterized by a thickness decreasing toward the first side edge.
4. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 2 wherein the leading and trailing hinge members extending from the linear portion of the central beam each include:
- first hinge members having a laterally narrow end distal from the central beam; and
- second hinge members having a laterally broad end distal from the central beam;
- wherein the second hinge members are arranged successively in pairs separated by a single first hinge member disposed between successive pairs.
5. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 2 wherein the thickness of the central beam in the linear portion decreases monotonically from the middle of the row toward at least one of the first and second side edges of the row.
6. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 1 wherein the central beam extends in depth from the top side to the bottom side of the row.
7. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 1 wherein each row includes:

a plurality of laterally spaced leading hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the central beam toward the leading end and forming laterally aligned holes through the leading hinge members;

a plurality of laterally spaced trailing hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the central beam toward the trailing end and forming laterally aligned holes through the trailing hinge members;

wherein the central beam includes sinuous portions near the first and second side edges of the row and a linear portion in a middle region of the row;

a plurality of hinge pins extending through lateral passageways formed by the aligned holes through interleaved leading and trailing hinge members of consecutive rows to interconnect the rows into an endless conveyor belt.

10. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 9 wherein the beam thickness is greater in the linear portion than in the sinuous portions.

11. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 9 wherein the linear portion includes a portion of constant beam thickness.

12. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 9 wherein the linear portion includes a tapered portion of linearly decreasing beam thickness.

13. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 9 wherein the beam thickness in the sinuous portions decreases monotonically toward the nearer side edge of the belt.

14. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 9 wherein the central beam is disposed generally midway between distal ends of the leading hinge members and of the trailing hinge members.

15. (currently amended) A modular plastic conveyor belt suitable for following a curved conveying path, the conveyor belt comprising:

a series of rows of belt modules, each row extending laterally in width from a first side edge to a second side edge and longitudinally in the direction of belt travel from a first end to a second end, wherein each row includes:

- at least one belt module forming the row;
- a central beam formed in each belt module and arranged laterally across the width of the row and having a beam thickness generally in the direction of belt travel;
- a first plurality of laterally spaced hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the central beam toward the first end of the row and forming laterally aligned holes through the first hinge members;
- a second plurality of laterally spaced hinge members extending generally longitudinally from the central beam toward the second end of the row and forming laterally aligned and longitudinally elongated holes through the second hinge members;

indexing means for preventing adjacent rows from relative lateral motion;

a plurality of hinge pins extending through lateral passageways formed by the aligned holes through interleaved first and second hinge members of consecutive rows to interconnect the rows into an endless conveyor belt,

wherein each of the first and second pluralities of hinge members includes a leg extending from the central beam to a distal end, wherein the legs of the first and second pluralities of hinge members are narrower than the distal ends.

16. (original) A modular plastic conveyor belt as in claim 15 wherein the central beam includes sinuous portions near the first and second side edges of the row and a linear portion in a middle region of the row.
17. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 16 wherein the beam thickness is greater in the linear portion than in the sinuous portions.
18. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 16 wherein the linear portion includes a portion of constant beam thickness.
19. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 16 wherein the linear portion includes a tapered portion of linearly decreasing beam thickness.
20. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 16 wherein the beam thickness in the sinuous portions decreases monotonically toward the nearer side edge of the belt.
21. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 15 wherein the indexing means comprises:
narrow-ended hinge members selected from the first and second pluralities of hinge members and having a laterally narrow end distal from the central beam; and
broad-ended hinge members selected from the first and second pluralities of hinge members and having a laterally broad end distal from the central beam;
wherein at least two broad-ended hinge members are arranged successively and separated between their broad distal ends by a narrow gap sized slightly greater than the narrow distal ends of the narrow-ended hinge members.
22. (currently amended) A conveyor belt as in claim 21 wherein the narrow-ended hinge members and the broad-ended hinge members extend from ~~the linear portion of the central beam~~ in a middle region of the row between the first and second side edges.

23. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 21 wherein one of the narrow-ended hinge members along the second end of a row is received in the gap between successive broad-ended hinge members along the first end of an adjacent row.
24. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 15 wherein the indexing means comprises:
selected hinge members of the first and second pluralities that include a leg including
opposite side walls extending longitudinally from the central beam to a distal end
that includes opposite side surfaces defining a lateral breadth therebetween that is
broader than the leg;
wherein the leg of each of the selected hinge members is offset laterally from the
centerline of the distal end.
25. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 24 wherein one of the side walls of the legs is coplanar with one of the side surfaces of the distal end.
26. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 24 wherein every other of the hinge members of the second plurality of hinge members in a middle region of the belt rows is a selected hinge member.
27. (canceled)
28. (canceled)
29. (original) A conveyor belt as in claim 15 wherein the central beam is disposed generally midway between distal ends of the first plurality of hinge members and of the second plurality of hinge members.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,837,367

DATED : Jan. 4, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Richard M. Klein, Lynell M. Duhon, Errol P. Knott

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent
is hereby corrected as shown below:

Claim 2, line 66, insert --:-- after "includes".

Claim 15, line 44, "TOW" should read --row--, and, in line 56, insert --a-- between "members includes" and "leg extending".

Claim 21, line 28, "member" at the end of the claim should read --members--.

Claim 22, line 31, "tendon" should read --region--.

Claim 23, line 33, "clot" should read --claim--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

James T. Cronvich
Laitram, L.L.C.
220 Laitram Lane, Harahan, LA 70123

PATENT NO. 6,837,367

No. of additional copies



This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: **Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.